

Psalm 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

Analysis

David's prayer shifts from declaration to petition, calling on God to act decisively. The imagery of striking enemies on the 'cheek bone' and breaking the 'teeth of the ungodly' depicts complete defeat - rendering them unable to continue their assault. This violent language reflects covenant curses against God's enemies and His people's enemies. Yet it's ultimately messianic: Christ defeated all spiritual enemies through the cross, breaking Satan's power to accuse and devour believers. The prayer for vindication is ultimately answered in Christ's resurrection victory.

Historical Context

This military language reflects ancient Near Eastern combat where breaking an enemy's jaw rendered them helpless. David, as God's anointed king, could legitimately pray for his enemies' defeat since they were opposing God's chosen ruler. The psalm points forward to Christ's greater victory over all forces of evil.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you pray for God's justice while also loving your enemies as Christ commanded?
2. In what spiritual battles do you need to pray with greater confidence for God's intervention?

Interlinear Text

רִאשְׁתָּךְ	אַתָּה	הַכְּתָבָה	יְתִמְרָא	תְּמִימָה	תְּמִימָה	תְּמִימָה
Arise	O LORD	save	me O my God	H3588	for thou hast smitten	H853
H6965	H3068	H3467	H430		H5221	
כָּל	אַיִבְנָה	לְחֵי	שְׁנַיִם	רִשְׁעָם		
H3605	all mine enemies	upon the cheek bone	the teeth	of the ungodly		
H341		H3895	H8127	H7563		
שִׁבְרָתְךָ	thou hast broken					
	H7665					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 58:6 (References God): Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD.

Job 29:17 (Parallel theme): And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

Job 16:10 (Parallel theme): They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me.

Psalms 59:5 (References God): Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah.

Psalms 10:12 (Resurrection): Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.

Psalms 7:6 (Resurrection): Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded.

Psalms 6:4 (Salvation): Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

Isaiah 51:9 (References Lord): Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

Psalms 35:23 (References God): Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.

Psalms 44:23 (Resurrection): Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever.

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